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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,168	11/07/2001	Sandra S. Webb	20009.0007US01 (BS00-340)	4958
45695 7590 01/17/2007 WITHERS & KEYS FOR BELL SOUTH P. O. BOX 71355 MARIETTA, GA 30007-1355			EXAMINER BETIT, JACOB F	
			ART UNIT 2164	PAPER NUMBER

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/17/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/986,168	WEBB ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jacob F. Betit	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-9,12,13,20,21,24 and 41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-9,12,13,20,21,24 and 41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 24 October 2006 has been entered.

Remarks

2. In response to communications filed on 24 October 2006, claims 1, 20, and 41 have been amended and claims 2-3, 10-11, 25, and 42-43 are cancelled per the applicant's request. Claims 1, 4-9, 12-13, 20-21, 24, and 41 are presently pending in the application.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 20, 21, and 24 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 20 contains the phrases "input fields of the *fist* graphical user interface", "a first input *filed* of a graphical user interface", and "a plurality *if* input fields". The amendments to change the word "first" to the word "fist", to change the word "field" to the word "filed", and to change the word "of" to "if" are not properly identified, and are believed to be inadvertent. The applicant should make an amendment to return these

Art Unit: 2164

phrases to their original versions in the response to this office action; properly identifying each change.

Claims 21 and 24 are objected to for being dependent on rejected independent claim 20.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1, 4-9, 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 states “storing ... the one or more additional data values in a second database”. It is not clear from the claim if the user ever inputs “one or more additional data values”, therefore it is not clear how these values would be stored if they are never obtained.

Claims 4-9, 12-13 are rejected for being dependent on rejected independent claim 1.

Claim 13 recites the limitation “selectively sending at least one of and less than all of the first data value, the second data value, the third data value, and the fourth data value”. It is not clear from this limitation where the data values are being selectively sent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 4-9, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. patent No. 5,815,657) in view of Lefkowitz (U.S. application publication No. 2001/0037250 A1), and in further view of the examiner's official notice.

As to claim 1, Williams et al. teaches a method for online purchasing utilizing database registration information in an online purchasing system, comprising:

requesting a user identifier from the user computer via a first input field of a first graphical user interface displaying a web page (see figure 9, reference numbers 900, 910, 920, and 930);

receiving the user identifier via the first input field of the first graphical user interface (see figure 9, reference numbers 900, 910, 920, and 930; and see column 20, lines 60 through column 21, line 4);

sending a query to the first database based at least in part on the user identifier (see column 19, lines 34-40);

receiving a first data value from the first database, the first data value being associated with the user for purposes of identifying the user and being displayed in a display field of the first graphical user interface (see column 12, lines 18-40);

prompting for and receiving a second data values from a data source via a second

Art Unit: 2164

input field of the first graphical user interface, the second data value being associated with the user for purposes of electronic procurement authorization, the data source being different from the first database (see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25 and see column 32, lines 4-42);

prompting the user to enter one or more additional data values via one or more corresponding input fields of the first graphical user interface, wherein the user has an option to input the one or more additional data values (see column 32, lines 4-32);

periodically updating the first and second databases such that both databases maintain a common configuration (see column 12, lines 6-9, and see column 12, lines 27-29);

updating one or more parameters regarding uploading of the first data value, the second data value and the one or more additional data values to the second database using a second graphical user interface (see column 31, lines 1-20).

Williams et al. does not distinctly disclose:

(a) storing the first data value, the second data value and the one or more additional data values in a second database such that the first data value, the second data values and the one or more additional data values are contained within the second database concurrently and persistently, the second database being different from the first database;

(b) validating at least one of the first data value the second data value and the one or more additional data values stored in the second database when a user, who is not an owner of a purchasing card enters purchasing card information comprising the at least one of the first data value the second data value and the one or more additional data

Art Unit: 2164

values to make a purchase via the online purchasing system wherein validating the at least one of the first data value, the second data value and the one or more additional data values comprises sending an electronic communication to the owner of the purchasing card to determine whether the user, who is not an owner of the purchasing card is authorized to use the purchasing card.

Lefkowitz teaches (a), see paragraph 0046, and (b) see paragraph 055. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Williams et al. to include the teachings of Lefkowitz because these teachings would allow the merchant to review orders and be sure that all orders were properly paid with charges to customers.

Williams et al. does not distinctly disclose

(c) determining a first type of a web browser being utilized by a user computer that is accessing a first database;

(d) sending a web page to a the user computer that is in a format that is compatible with the web browser being utilized by the user computer.

The examiner takes official notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Williams et al. to include (c) and (d) because these teachings would allow different browsers with slight variations on how they interpret html and other code to display the web page correctly using a method that is well known in the art.

Art Unit: 2164

As to claim 4, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein receiving the second data value includes receiving the second data value via a computer (see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25).

As to claim 5, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising sending at least in part an applet to the computer (see figure 9, reference number 940, and see column 12, lines 41-55).

As to claim 6, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein sending at least in part the applet to the computer includes sending graphical user interface data (see column 12, lines 56-67).

As to claim 7, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising receiving purchasing card information (see column 14, line 62 through column 15, line 12).

As to claim 8, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein the purchasing card information includes a purchasing card number of a purchasing card and an identification of an owner of the purchasing card (see figure 17, reference numbers 1720, 1730, 1750, 1760, and 1780).

As to claim 9, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein the purchasing card is selected from the group consisting of a credit card and a debit card (see column 14, line 62 through column 15, line 12).

As to claim 12, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising storing a third data value and a fourth data value in the second database, the third data value and the fourth data value being associated with the user, the third data value and the fourth data value being received from one of the data source and the first database (see column 12, lines 18-40).

As to claim 13, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising selectively sending at least one of and less than all of the first data value, the second data value, the third data value, and the fourth data value (see column 12, lines 18-40).

8. Claims 20, 21, 24 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. patent No. 5,815,657) in view of Lefkowitz (U.S. application publication No. 2001/0037250 A1), and in further view of the examiner's official notice.

As to claim 20, Williams et al. teaches a system for database registration, the system comprising:

a first server including database registration instructions (see figure 1B, reference number 184);

a first database coupled to the first server, the first database to store at least in part a first set of data values associated with a user (see figure 1B, reference number 186);

a computer coupled to the first server, the computer to receive a second set of data values associated with the user for purposes of electronic procurement authorization via a

Art Unit: 2164

second set of input fields of the first graphical user interface (see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25 and see column 32, lines 4-42), the computer to receive the first set of data values from the first database for purposes of identifying the user and display the first set of data values via a display field of the graphical user interface in response to receiving a user identifier via a first input [field] of the graphical user interface (see column 12, lines 18-40), wherein the computer allows the user to enter one or more additional data values via one or more additional input fields of the [first] graphical user interface (see column 32, lines 4-42), where further a portion of the graphical user interface is a Java applet including one or more Active Server Pages supporting a plurality of panel indicators, wherein the applet prompts the user by presenting pre-approved affiliates in a drop down list for selection by the user (see figure 9, reference number 940), by presenting a plurality [of] input fields for entry of transactional account numbers available for use by the user (see figure 33), by presenting a plurality of input fields for entry of organizational codes and tracking units for purchases to be made by the user (see figure 20); and

an online purchasing system comprising a second database and one or more related databases (see figure 2, reference number 180), wherein further the computer provides a second graphical user interface to receive parameters regarding uploading the first set of data values and second set of data values and the additional data values to the second database (see column 31, lines 1-20).

Williams et al. does not distinctly disclose:

(a) the second database to receive the first set of data values, the second set of data values and the additional data values from the display field, the second input field

Art Unit: 2164

and the one or more additional input fields of the graphical user interface of the computer, the second database to store the first set of data values, the second set of data values and the additional data values such that the first data value from the first database the second set of data values and the additional data values are contained within the second database concurrently and persistently; and

(b) wherein the applet validates at least one of the first set of data values, the second set of data values and the additional data values stored in the second database when a user, who is not an owner of a purchasing card enters purchasing card information comprising the at least one of the first set of data values, the second set of data values and the additional data values to make a purchase via the online purchasing system wherein validating the at least one of the first set of data values the second set of data values and the additional data values comprises generating and sending an electronic communication to the owner of the purchasing card to determine whether the user, who is not an owner of the purchasing card, is authorized to use the purchasing card.

Lefkowitz teaches (a), see paragraph 0046, and (b) see paragraph 055. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Williams et al. to include the teachings of Lefkowitz because these teachings would allow the merchant to review orders and be sure that all orders were properly paid with charges to customers.

As to claim 21, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein:

the first server includes a first server processor and a first sever memory, the first sever memory including a plurality of instructions configured to be executed by the

Art Unit: 2164

server, the plurality of instructions configured to be executed by the server including the database registration instructions (see Williams et al. column 11, lines 17-52); and

the computer includes a processor and a memory, the memory including a plurality of instructions configured to be executed by the processor, the plurality of instructions configured to be executed by the processor including at least a portion of the database registration instructions, the at least a portion of the database registration instructions being received from the first server (see Williams et al. column 4, lines 35-60, and see column 11, line 53 through column 12, line 9).

As to claim 24, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein: the computer is to receive purchasing card information corresponding to one of the transactional account numbers (see Williams et al. column 32, lines 4-42); and

the second database is to store the received purchasing card information (see Lefkowitz paragraph 0045).

As to claim 41, Williams et al. teaches a computer-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions to be executed by a processor for database registration, the plurality of instructions comprising instructions to:

receive a user identifier of a user via a first set of input fields of a graphical user interface (see figure 9, reference numbers 900, 910, 920, and 930 and see column 20, lines 60 through column 21, line 4);

send a query to a first database based at least in part on the user identifier (see column 19, lines 34-40);

Art Unit: 2164

receive a first set of data values of a first set of data fields from the first database, the first set of data values being associated with the user for purposes of identifying the user and being displayed in a display field of the graphical user interface (see column 12, lines 18-40);

receive a second set of data values from a data source via a second set of input fields of the graphical user interface, the second set of data values being associated with the user for purposes of electronic procurement authorization, the data source being different from the first database (see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25 and see column 32, lines 4-42);

prompt the user to enter one or more additional data values via one or more corresponding input fields of the first graphical user interface, wherein the user has an option to input the one or more additional data values (see column 32, lines 4-42), the prompting comprising presenting the pre-approved affiliates in a drop down list for selection by the user, the prompting further comprising presenting a plurality of input fields for entry of transactional account numbers available for use by the user, the prompting further comprising presenting a plurality of input fields for entry of organization codes and tracking units for purchases to be made by the user; (see figure 17).

Williams et al. does not distinctly disclose

(a) store the first set of data values, the second set of data values and the one or more additional data values in a second database such that the first set of data values, the second set of data values and the one or more additional data values are contained within the second database concurrently and persistently, the second database being different

Art Unit: 2164

from the first database; and

(b) validate at least one of the first set of data values, the second set of data values and the one or more additional data values stored in the second database when a user, who is not an owner of a purchasing card, enters purchasing card information comprising at least of the first set of data values, the second set of data values and the one or more additional data values to make a purchase via an online purchasing system, wherein validating the at least one of the first set of data values, the second set of data values and the one or more additional data values comprises sending an electronic communication to the owner of the purchasing card to determine whether the user, who is not an owner of the purchasing card, is authorized to use the purchasing card.

Lefkowitz teaches (a), see paragraph 0046, and (b) see paragraph 055. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Williams et al. to include the teachings of Lefkowitz because these teachings would allow the merchant to review orders and be sure that all orders were properly paid with charges to customers.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 2164

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob F. Betit whose telephone number is (571) 272-4075. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

jfb
3 Jan 2007


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER